

¶99.16 ORDER OF BUSINESS—AMENDMENT  
MODIFICATION—H.R. 123

On motion of Mr. LINDER, by unanimous consent,

*Ordered*, That the amendment numbered 1 printed in House Report No. 104-734 to accompany House Resolution 499 may be offered with the following modification: at the beginning of the amendment, insert: before "English" the words "Bill Emerson".

¶99.17 WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER  
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT TO  
ACCOMPANY H.R. 3103

Mr. LINDER, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 104-738) the resolution (H. Res. 502) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3103) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶99.18 WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER  
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT TO  
ACCOMPANY H.R. 3448

Mr. LINDER, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 104-739) the resolution (H. Res. 503) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3448) to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that Act.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

## ¶99.19 ENGLISH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. NETHERCUTT, pursuant to House Resolution 499 and rule XXIII, declared the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 123) to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. NETHERCUTT, by unanimous consent, designated Mr. HANSEN as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole; and after some time spent therein,

## ¶99.20 RECORDED VOTE

A recorded vote by electronic device was ordered in the Committee of the Whole on the following amendment submitted by Mr. SERRANO:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "English Plus Act".

## SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) English is the primary language of the United States, and all members of the society recognize the importance of English to national life and individual accomplishment.

(2) Many residents of the United States speak native languages other than English, including many languages indigenous to this country, and these linguistic resources need to be conserved and developed.

(3) This Nation was founded on a commitment to democratic principles, and not on racial, ethnic, or religious homogeneity, and has drawn strength from a diversity of languages and cultures and from a respect for individual liberties.

(4) Multilingualism, or the ability to speak languages in addition to English, is a tremendous resource to the United States because such ability enhances American competitiveness in global markets by permitting improved communication and cross-cultural understanding between producers and suppliers, vendors and clients, and retailers and consumers.

(5) Multilingualism improves United States diplomatic efforts by fostering enhanced communication and greater understanding between nations.

(6) Multilingualism has historically been an essential element of national security, including the use of Native American languages in the development of coded communications during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

(7) Multilingualism promotes greater cross-cultural understanding between different racial and ethnic groups in the United States.

(8) There is no threat to the status of English in the United States, a language that is spoken by 97 percent of United States residents, according to the 1990 United States Census, and there is no need to designate any official United States language or to adopt similar restrictionist legislation.

(9) "English-only" measures, or proposals to designate English as the sole official language of the United States, would violate traditions of cultural pluralism, divide communities along ethnic lines, jeopardize the provision of law enforcement, public health, education, and other vital services to those whose English is limited, impair government efficiency, and undercut the national interest by hindering the development of language skills needed to enhance international competitiveness and conduct diplomacy.

(10) Such "English-only" measures would represent an unwarranted Federal regulation of self-expression, abrogate constitutional rights to freedom of expression and equal protection of the laws, violate international human rights treaties to which the United States is a signatory, and contradict the spirit of the 1923 Supreme Court case *Meyer v. Nebraska*, wherein the Court declared that "The protection of the Constitution extends to all; to those who speak other languages as well as to those born with English on the tongue."

## SEC. 3. GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

The United States Government should pursue policies that promote English as the common language of the United States and that—

(1) encourage all residents of this country to become fully proficient in English by expanding educational opportunities and informational resources;

(2) conserve and develop the Nation's linguistic resources by encouraging all residents of this country to learn or maintain skills in a language other than English;

(3) respect the treaties with and the customs of Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and other peoples indigenous to the United States and its territories;

(4) continue to provide services in languages other than English as needed to facilitate access to essential functions of government, promote public health and safety, ensure due process, promote equal educational opportunity, and protect fundamental rights; and

(5) recognize the importance of multilingualism to vital American interests and individual rights, and oppose restrictionist language measures.

It was decided in the { Yeas ..... 178  
negative ..... } Nays ..... 250

## ¶99.21 [Roll No. 389]

## AYES—178

|              |                |               |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Abercrombie  | Gejdenson      | Nadler        |
| Ackerman     | Gephardt       | Neal          |
| Andrews      | Geren          | Oberstar      |
| Baldacci     | Gibbons        | Olver         |
| Barcia       | Gonzalez       | Ortiz         |
| Barrett (WI) | Gordon         | Orton         |
| Becerra      | Green (TX)     | Owens         |
| Beilenson    | Gutierrez      | Pallone       |
| Bentsen      | Hall (OH)      | Pastor        |
| Berman       | Harman         | Payne (NJ)    |
| Bishop       | Hastings (FL)  | Pelosi        |
| Blumenauer   | Hefner         | Poshard       |
| Bonior       | Hilliard       | Rahall        |
| Borski       | Hinchey        | Rangel        |
| Boucher      | Holden         | Reed          |
| Brown (CA)   | Hoyer          | Richardson    |
| Brown (FL)   | Jackson (IL)   | Rivers        |
| Brown (OH)   | Jackson-Lee    | Roemer        |
| Bryant (TX)  | (TX)           | Ros-Lehtinen  |
| Bunn         | Jacobs         | Rose          |
| Cardin       | Jefferson      | Roybal-Allard |
| Chapman      | Johnson, E. B. | Rush          |
| Clay         | Johnston       | Sabo          |
| Clayton      | Kanjorski      | Sanders       |
| Clyburn      | Kaptur         | Sawyer        |
| Coleman      | Kennedy (MA)   | Schiff        |
| Collins (IL) | Kennedy (RI)   | Schroeder     |
| Collins (MI) | Kennelly       | Schumer       |
| Condit       | Kildee         | Scott         |
| Conyers      | Klecza         | Serrano       |
| Costello     | Klink          | Skaggs        |
| Coyne        | LaFalce        | Skeen         |
| Cummings     | Lantos         | Slaughter     |
| de la Garza  | Levin          | Spratt        |
| DeFazio      | Lewis (GA)     | Stark         |
| DeLauro      | Lofgren        | Stokes        |
| Dellums      | Lowe           | Studds        |
| Deutsch      | Luther         | Stupak        |
| Diaz-Balart  | Maloney        | Tanner        |
| Dicks        | Markey         | Tejeda        |
| Dingell      | Martinez       | Thompson      |
| Dixon        | Mascara        | Thornton      |
| Doggett      | Matsui         | Thurman       |
| Dooley       | McCarthy       | Torres        |
| Doyle        | McDermott      | Torricelli    |
| Durbin       | McHale         | Towns         |
| Edwards      | McKinney       | Velazquez     |
| Engel        | Meehan         | Vento         |
| Eshoo        | Meek           | Visclosky     |
| Evans        | Menendez       | Volkmer       |
| Farr         | Millender      | Ward          |
| Fattah       | McDonald       | Waters        |
| Fazio        | Miller (CA)    | Watt (NC)     |
| Fields (LA)  | Minge          | Waxman        |
| Filner       | Mink           | Williams      |
| Flake        | Moakley        | Wilson        |
| Foglietta    | Mollohan       | Wise          |
| Frank (MA)   | Moran          | Woolsey       |
| Frost        | Morella        | Wynn          |
| Furse        | Murtha         | Yates         |

## NOES—250

|          |              |          |
|----------|--------------|----------|
| Allard   | Baker (CA)   | Bartlett |
| Archer   | Baker (LA)   | Barton   |
| Armey    | Ballenger    | Bass     |
| Bachus   | Barr         | Bateman  |
| Baessler | Barrett (NE) | Bereuter |